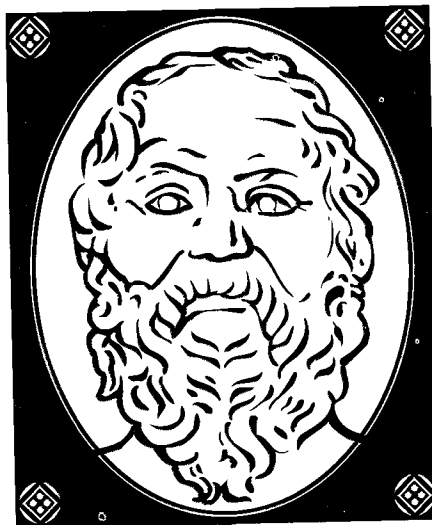


## ■ SOCRATES, A GREAT TEACHER ■



Socrates was a famous philosopher and teacher in ancient Greece. A philosopher is a person who searches for the truth about life. Socrates questioned every aspect of life. He especially liked debating the issues of good and evil. Socrates believed that no one deliberately does evil things. Socrates taught his students to think for themselves and to question everything. His teaching style was to ask questions of his students that made them examine their own beliefs. He did not believe learning happened if teachers just lectured to their students.

His method of teaching made the Athenian leaders angry. They were worried that by teaching young people to question every aspect of life, Socrates and his pupils were challenging the authority of the government. In truth, Socrates and his followers did point out weaknesses in the government and did challenge the idea of worshipping many gods.

Socrates was charged with corrupting the minds of the young and showing disrespect for the gods. Socrates stood trial in 399 B.C. at the age

of 70. He pleaded his own case before a jury of 700 Athenian citizens. The jury convicted him by a narrow margin. Socrates was given a choice for his punishment. He could leave Athens forever, or he could drink a cup of poisonous hemlock tea and die. He refused to leave his beloved Athens and chose the hemlock. Plato, one of his students, wanted to bribe the guards to let Socrates escape, but Socrates said no. Socrates explained to his friends that he had obeyed the Athenian laws all his life, and he would not break them now. Socrates drank the tea and died, with his friends surrounding him.

Socrates did not write down his original ideas, but thankfully his followers did. Socrates was considered a wise man, and the Socratic method of questioning ideas and opinions is still practiced today.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



## ▣ SOCRATES, A GREAT TEACHER ▣

Now that you have read about Socrates, it is your turn to be one of his students. Pretend your teacher, Socrates, wants you to answer the following questions. Answer them honestly and fully. Remember, Socrates would want you to give reasons for your answers.

1. My most famous quote was, "The unexamined life is not worth living." What did I mean by this?

---

---

2. What makes people happy? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

3. What would life be like if everyone were the same? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

4. Why do we have rules in our world? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

5. Do you think all people are basically good? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

Now that you have answered some of Socrates' questions, you are ready to read and share your answers with a partner. Compare your answers. Remember, Socrates would value both opinions because he did not believe that any answer to a question was wrong if it was a well-thought-out idea.